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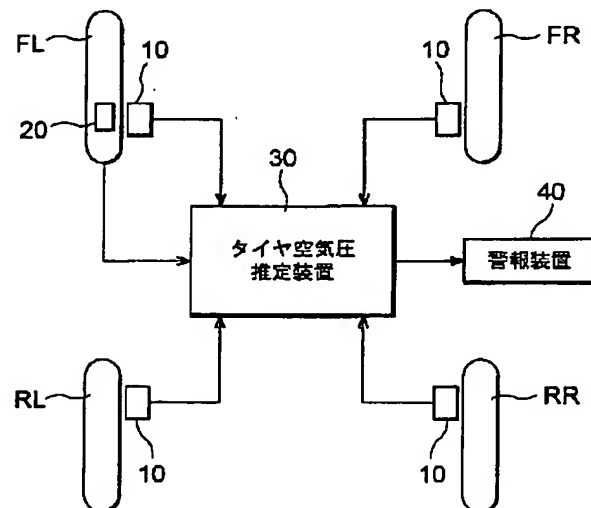
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(54) 【発明の名称】 タイヤ空気圧推定装置

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 装着されたタイヤの種別を事前に選択し、これに基づいてタイヤ空気圧の推定処理が行われていた。

【解決手段】 車輪FLに装着されたタイヤの空気圧を直接検出する空気圧センサ20を備える。タイヤ空気圧推定装置30では、空気圧センサ20の検出空気圧と推定空気圧とに基づいて、タイヤ種別に応じた最適なオフゼーバを選択する。



## 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定装置において、各車輪の回転状態を検出し、回転状態に応じた検出信号を出力する回転状態検出手段と、

各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するための複数のオブザーバを有し、装着されたタイヤに応じていずれかのオブザーバを選択する選択手段と、

前記選択手段で選択されたオブザーバによって、前記検出信号をもとに各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定手段と、

前記各車輪のうちいずれかの特定車輪に装着されたタイヤに設けられ、このタイヤの空気圧を検出する空気圧検出手段とを備えており、

前記選択手段は、前記タイヤ空気圧推定手段で推定された推定空気圧と前記空気圧検出手段で検出された検出空気圧とに基づいて、いずれかの前記オブザーバを選択することを特徴とするタイヤ空気圧推定装置。

【請求項2】 車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定装置において、各車輪の回転状態を検出し、回転状態に応じた検出信号を出力する回転状態検出手段と、

各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するための複数のオブザーバを有し、装着されたタイヤに応じていずれかのオブザーバを選択する選択手段と、

前記選択手段で選択されたオブザーバによって、前記検出信号をもとに各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定手段と、

前記各車輪のうちいずれかの特定車輪に装着されたタイヤに設けられ、このタイヤの空気圧を検出する空気圧検出手段とを備えており、

前記選択手段は、前記空気圧検出手段の検出空気圧が所定範囲内の場合に、前記検出信号に含まれるタイヤの共振周波数をもとに、いずれかの前記オブザーバを選択することを特徴とするタイヤ空気圧推定装置。

【請求項3】 前記空気圧推定手段は、前記特定車輪に装着されたタイヤの検出空気圧とこのタイヤの推定空気圧とをもとに、各タイヤの推定空気圧を補正する補正手段を備える請求項1または2記載のタイヤ空気圧推定装置。

【請求項4】 前記空気圧検出手段は、その前後でセンサ出力が変化する所定のしきい値を有する圧力センサである請求項1または2記載のタイヤ空気圧推定装置。

## 【発明の詳細な説明】

## 【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、車輪の回転状態をもとに、各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定装置に関する。

## 【0002】

【従来の技術】従来から、各車輪の車輪速度をもとに、

各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定装置が提案されている。例えば、特開平6-328919号公報には、車輪速センサの検出信号からタイヤの共振周波数成分を抽出し、この共振周波数からタイヤの空気圧状態を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定装置が開示されている。また、タイヤの空気圧-共振周波数特性は、タイヤの種別に応じて変化するため、装着したタイヤの種別を選定する選定スイッチを設けており、タイヤ交換を行った後、運転者が選定スイッチを操作して、装着したタイヤの種別を設定する。このようにタイヤ種別を運転者が事前に設定することで、タイヤ種別に応じたタイヤ空気圧状態の推定処理が実行される。

## 【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかし、このように選定スイッチの操作によってタイヤ種別を設定すると、装着するタイヤの種別が前輪と後輪で異なる場合もあるため、前輪側の選定スイッチと後輪側の選定スイッチとを、それぞれ別個に設けることが必要となる。このため、スイッチ数が多くなるばかりでなく、設定操作も煩雑になってしまう。また、タイヤ交換を行った後には必ず設定操作を実行しなければならず、設定を忘れるか或いは誤った設定をした場合には、タイヤ空気圧状態の正確な推定処理が実行できないおそれもあった。

【0004】本発明は、このような課題を解決すべくなされたものであり、その目的は、タイヤ交換が行われた場合にも、運転者の操作を何ら必要とすることなく、最適な推定処理を行うことができるタイヤ空気圧推定装置を提供することにある。

## 【0005】

【課題を解決するための手段】そこで、請求項1にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置は、車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定装置において、各車輪の回転状態を検出し、回転状態に応じた検出信号を出力する回転状態検出手段と、各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するための複数のオブザーバを有し、装着されたタイヤに応じていずれかのオブザーバを選択する選択手段と、選択手段で選択されたオブザーバによって、検出信号をもとに各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定手段と、各車輪のうちいずれかの特定車輪に装着されたタイヤに設けられ、このタイヤの空気圧を検出する空気圧検出手段とを備えており、選択手段は、タイヤ空気圧推定手段で推定された推定空気圧と空気圧検出手段で検出された検出空気圧とに基づいて、いずれかのオブザーバを選択することを特徴とする。

【0006】選択手段では、推定空気圧と検出空気圧とに基づいてオブザーバを選択するので、運転者の操作を必要とすることなく、最適なオブザーバを選択できる。

【0007】請求項2にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置は、車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ

空気圧推定装置において、各車輪の回転状態を検出し、回転状態に応じた検出信号を出力する回転状態検出手段と、各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するための複数のオブザーバを有し、装着されたタイヤに応じていずれかのオブザーバを選択する選択手段と、前記選択手段で選択されたオブザーバによって、検出信号をもとに各車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定するタイヤ空気圧推定手段と、各車輪のうちいずれかの特定車輪に装着されたタイヤに設けられ、このタイヤの空気圧を検出する空気圧検出手段とを備えており、選択手段は、空気圧検出手段の検出空気圧が所定範囲内の場合に、検出信号に含まれるタイヤの共振周波数をもとに、いずれかのオブザーバを選択することを特徴とする。

【0008】検出信号には、各タイヤ固有の共振周波数が含まれ、この共振周波数はタイヤ空気圧によって変化する。このため、選択手段は、空気圧検出手段の検出空気圧が所定範囲内の場合にはタイヤ空気圧が正常圧であると判断し、この際の検出信号に含まれる共振周波数をもとに最適なオブザーバを選択する。

【0009】請求項3にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置は、請求項1または2の空気圧推定手段が、特定車輪に装着されたタイヤの検出空気圧とこのタイヤの推定空気圧とをもとに、各タイヤの推定空気圧を補正する補正手段を備えて構成する。

【0010】補正手段によって、直接検出したタイヤの検出空気圧をもとに、各タイヤの推定空気圧を補正するので、精度の高い空気圧の推定が可能となる。

【0011】請求項4にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置は、請求項1または2の空気圧検出手段を、その前後でセンサ出力が変化する所定のしきい値を有する圧力センサで構成する。

【0012】空気圧検出手段をリニアセンサではなく、センサ出力が変化する所定のしきい値を有する圧力センサで構成することで、センサの省電力化や簡素化をはかることができる。

【0013】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の実施形態につき、添付図面を参照して説明する。

【0014】図1に本実施形態にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置の構成を概略的に示す。各車輪に装着される前後左右の車輪FL、FR、RL、RRには、それぞれ各車輪の回転状態を検出する回転状態検出手段としての車輪速センサ10を設けている。

【0015】車輪速センサ10は、図2に示すように、磁性体よりなる歯車形状のロータ11とピックアップコイル12とを備えており、ロータ11は各車輪FL、FR、RL、RRと共に回転するものであり、周囲に一定ピッチの歯部13を形成している。ピックアップコイル12は、ロータ11の歯部13の通過に応じて周期的に変化する電圧を発生する。そして、この電圧は波形整形

器14によって矩形波に整形されて出力される。

【0016】1つの車輪FLには、この車輪FLに装着されたタイヤの空気圧を直接検出する空気圧検出手段としての空気圧センサ20を設けている。この空気圧センサ20は、その前後でセンサ出力が変化するしきい値を2つ備えている。図5(a)に示すように、2つのしきい値Sh、Slは、しきい値Shとしきい値Slとの間に、正常なタイヤの空気圧（正常圧）が存在するように設定されており、検出結果としては、(イ)、(ロ)、(ハ)の3つの検出状態（2ビットの情報）のいずれかが出力される。たとえば、検出結果が(ロ)であれば、測定したタイヤ空気圧は、正常圧とみなされる所定の範囲内にあることが分かる。

【0017】なお、しきい値Sh、Slの設定は、図5(b)に示すように、しきい値Shとしきい値Slとの間に、正常圧と警報圧との中心値が存在するように設定することもできる。この場合、検出結果として(二)、(ホ)、(ヘ)の3つの検出状態があり、検出結果が(二)であれば、測定したタイヤ空気圧は、正常圧とみなされる所定の範囲内にあることが分かる。

【0018】これら車輪速センサ10及び空気圧センサ20の検出信号は、タイヤ空気圧推定装置30に与えられる。タイヤ空気圧推定装置30は、タイヤ種別に応じた複数のオブザーバを備えており、後述するように選択されたいずれかのオブザーバによって、車輪速センサ10及び空気圧センサ20の検出信号をもとに、各車輪FL、FR、RL、RRに装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定する。そして、いずれかの車輪に装着されたタイヤに空気圧低下が発生した場合には、警報装置40を作動させて警告ランプを点灯させるなど、運転者にタイヤの空気圧低下を知らせる警報処理がなされる。

【0019】次に、タイヤ空気圧推定装置30の動作を、図3のフローチャートをもとに概略的に説明する。

【0020】まずステップ102において（以下「ステップ」を「S」と記す）、車輪速センサ10及び空気圧センサ20の検出信号を読み込み、続くS104において、読み込まれた車輪速センサ10の検出信号をもとに、各車輪FL、FR、RL、RRの車輪速度を演算する。

【0021】続くS106では、現在装着しているタイヤに応じて予め設定されたオブザーバによって、演算された車輪速度等をもとに各車輪FL、FR、RL、RRに装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定する。なお、オブザーバの選択処理については後に詳述する。

【0022】ここで、備えられた複数のオブザーバ（外乱オブザーバ）について概略的に説明する。各オブザーバは、いずれも図4に示す車輪のモデルに基づいて構成されており、車輪を、リム側部1とベルト側部2とがばね定数Kのねじりばね3によって接続された線形システムとして取り扱っている。そして、タイヤの空気圧が変

化すると、ねじりばね 3 のばね定数  $K$  が変化し、この線形システムに外乱として反映される。そこで、外乱オブザーバの手法を用いてこの外乱を推定することでタイヤの空気圧を推定するものである（特開平 8-34215 号など）。このようにして S106 では、各車輪 FL, FR, RL, RR に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を推定する。

【0023】続く S108 では、S106 で各タイヤ毎に推定された推定空気圧を  $P_{fl}$ 、 $P_{fr}$ 、 $P_{rl}$ 、 $P_{rr}$  を、空気圧センサ 20 による検出空気圧  $A$  を用いて補正する。すなわち、空気圧センサ 20 が取り付けられた車輪は車輪 FL であるため、車輪 FL に装着されたタイヤの推定空気圧  $P_{fl}$  と検出空気圧  $A$  とをともに補正係数  $K_p$  を  $K_p = A / P_{fl}$  とする。そして、この補正係数  $K_p$  を、各タイヤの推定空気圧  $P_{fl}$ 、 $P_{fr}$ 、 $P_{rl}$ 、 $P_{rr}$  に乗ずることで、推定空気圧を補正する。このように空気圧センサ 20 によって直接検出した値をもとに推定空気圧を補正するので、より正確な推定空気圧を得ることができる。

【0024】続く S110 では、S108 で補正された各タイヤの推定空気圧が、判定基準値  $P_s$  以下か否かが判断される。全タイヤの推定空気圧が判定基準値  $P_s$  より大きい場合には、全タイヤの空気圧が正常であると判定され、いずれかのタイヤの推定空気圧が判定基準値  $P_s$  以下の場合には、該当する車輪のタイヤ空気圧が異常である旨の警報処理が警報装置 40 によってなされる。

【0025】タイヤ空気圧推定装置 30 では、このように推定処理及び判定処理を継続して実施し、走行中のタイヤの空気圧状態を監視している。

【0026】次に、前述した S106 で用いられるオブザーバを選択する選択処理について、図 6 のフローチャートをもとに説明する。

【0027】まず、S202 において、空気圧センサ 20 の検出空気圧と S106 で推定された推定空気圧とを読み込む。続く S204 において、読み込まれた検出空気圧と推定空気圧とをともに、検出空気圧  $- \alpha >$  推定空気圧であるか否かが判断される。なお、「 $\alpha$ 」はオブザーバの精度幅を示す値である。S204 の判断で肯定された場合には（S204 で「Yes」）、検出空気圧  $- \alpha >$  推定空気圧より、現在選択されているオブザーバによる推定空気圧が、実際に検出された検出空気圧よりも精度幅  $\alpha$  の範囲を越えるような小さな値に推定されていることになり、この場合には S206 に進んで、ピーク値が現在よりも高周波側にあるオブザーバを仮選択し、このルーチンを終了する。

【0028】一方、S204 の判断で否定された場合には（「S204 で「No」」）、S208 に進む。S208 では、読み込まれた検出空気圧と推定空気圧とをともに、検出空気圧  $+ \alpha <$  推定空気圧であるか否かが判断される。この S208 の判断で肯定された場合には（S

08 で「Yes」）、検出空気圧  $+ \alpha <$  推定空気圧より、現在選択されているオブザーバによる推定空気圧が、実際に検出された検出空気圧よりも精度幅  $\alpha$  の範囲を越えるような大きな値に推定されていることになり、この場合には S210 に進んで、ピーク値が現在よりも低周波側にあるオブザーバを仮選択し、このルーチンを終了する。

【0029】このようにして S206 及び S210 を経た後、再び S202 以降の処理が繰り返されるが、次のルーチンにおいて S202 で読み込まれる推定空気圧は、前のルーチンで仮選択されたオブザーバによる推定空気圧であり、この新たな推定空気圧の値をもとに、S204 以降の処理が繰り返されることになる。

【0030】そして、判断処理が進み、S208 の判断で否定された場合には（S208 で「No」）、S212 に進む。S212 に進む状況では、検出空気圧  $- \alpha \leq$  推定空気圧  $\leq$  検出空気圧  $+ \alpha$  であり、現在選択されているオブザーバによる推定空気圧は、実際に検出された検出空気圧に対して精度幅  $\alpha$  の範囲内に入っている。すなわち、現在のオブザーバが、現在装着されているタイヤに応じた最適なオブザーバであり、現在のオブザーバを本選択し、S106 で実施すべきタイヤの空気圧推定処理に用いるオブザーバとして設定する。

【0031】S106 では、このようにして選択されたオブザーバによって、タイヤ空気圧の推定処理がなされる。

【0032】また、オブザーバの選択処理は次のように実施することもできる。

【0033】車輪速センサ 10 の検出信号には、タイヤの振動周波数成分が含まれており、検出信号の出力分布を周波数解析すると、各タイヤ固有の共振周波数でピーク値を示し、この共振周波数はタイヤ空気圧によって変化する。従って、正常なタイヤ空気圧状態における共振周波数をタイヤ種別毎に予め求めておき、正常なタイヤ空気圧の下でタイヤの共振周波数を検出すれば、タイヤ種別、すなわちタイヤ種別に応じた最適なオブザーバを選択することができる。また、前述した複数のオブザーバには、各オブザーバに対応したバンドパスフィルタが備えられており、前述した外乱オブザーバ方式の線形システムでは、バンドパスフィルタとオブザーバのセットは一義的に決定される。従って、オブザーバの選択処理では、バンドパスフィルタとオブザーバ（外乱オブザーバ）のセットを、装着されているタイヤに合わせて選択することになる。

【0034】以下、オブザーバの選択処理を図 7 のフローチャートをもとに説明する。

【0035】まず、S302 でイグニッションスイッチがオンされたかが判断され、イグニッションスイッチがオンされると、S304 に進んで空気圧センサ 20 の検出結果が読み込まれ、検出空気圧が正常圧か否かが判断

される。例えば、空気圧センサ 20 のしきい値が図 5 (b) で示す設定になっている場合には、空気圧センサ 20 の検出状態が (二) であるか否かで判断される。S 304 で空気圧センサ 20 の検出状態が (二) ではない (正常圧ではない) と判断された場合には、S 306 に進み、検出されたタイヤ空気圧が低圧状態であることを記憶して、このルーチンを終了する。

【0036】S 304 で空気圧センサ 20 の検出状態が (二) である (正常圧である) と判断された場合には、S 308 に進んで、過去 T 秒間の判断結果が読み込まれ、圧力センサ 20 の検出空気圧に過去 T 秒間で低圧状態があったか否かが判断される。過去 T 秒間で低圧状態がなかった場合には、このルーチンを終了する。

【0037】S 308 で、過去 T 秒間で低圧状態があったと判断された場合には、現在の空気圧センサ 20 の検出空気圧が正常圧であるため、低圧状態から回復したものと判断できる。すなわち、タイヤ交換等が行われたものと判断して、S 400 におけるオブザーバの初期化ルーチンに移行する。

【0038】図 8 に初期化ルーチンを示す。この初期化ルーチンにおいて、バンドパスフィルタとオブザーバ (外乱オブザーバ) のセットを選択するが、ここでは、タイヤ空気圧推定装置 30 に、バンドパスフィルタ 1 ~ 3 と、これに対応するオブザーバ 1 ~ 3 が備えられている場合を例に説明する。

【0039】まず、車輪速センサ 10 の検出信号をバンドパスフィルタ 1 ~ 3 に与え、その出力を調べる。S 402 においてバンドパスフィルタ 1 の出力の 2 乗平均を演算し、S 404 においてバンドパスフィルタ 2 の出力の 2 乗平均を演算し、S 406 においてバンドパスフィルタ 3 の出力の 2 乗平均を演算する。

【0040】バンドパスフィルタ 1 ~ 3 が図 9 に示す周波数特性であるとき、車輪速センサ 10 で検出された車輪速の周波数応答が図 9 の上部に示す分布であるとする、この車輪速の周波数分布のピーク値 (共振点) を含むバンドパスフィルタの出力の 2 乗平均がもっとも大きくなる。そこで、S 408 では、S 402 ~ S 406 で演算されたフィルタ出力の 2 乗平均を比較し、演算結果が最大となるバンドパスフィルタを選択する。図 9 の例では、バンドパスフィルタ 2 が選択される。そして、続く S 410 では、このバンドパスフィルタ 2 に対応するオブザーバを選択する。

【0041】このようにしてオブザーバを選択することもでき、前述した S 106 では、このようにして選択されたオブザーバによって、タイヤ空気圧の推定処理がなされる。

【0042】以上説明した実施形態のうち、図 7 のフロ

ーチャートでは、空気圧センサ 20 の検出結果をもとに、空気圧状態が正常圧に復帰したタイミングで、オブザーバの選択処理を開始する場合を例示したが、例えば、空気圧センサ 20 の検出圧力が正常圧の条件で、イグニッションスイッチがオンされたタイミングでオブザーバの選択処理を開始することもできる。

【0043】また、空気圧センサ 20 として、2 つのしきい値を持ったセンサを例示したが、1 つのしきい値を有し、2 つの検出状態を出力するタイプの圧力センサを用いることもできる。この場合、しきい値 S は、タイヤの正常圧とオブザーバ方式の精度 (ばらつき幅)  $\pm 2Q$  に対し、正常圧  $-Q \leq S \leq$  正常圧となるように設定する。

【0044】

【発明の効果】以上説明したように、各請求項にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置によれば、各車輪のうちいずれかの特定車輪に装着されたタイヤの空気圧を空気圧検出手段で検出すると共に、この検出結果を利用して、選択手段でオブザーバを選択することとしたので、タイヤ交換が行われた場合にも、運転者の操作を何ら必要とすることなく、タイヤ種別に応じた最適なオブザーバを選択でき、タイヤ交換後も最適な推定処理を継続して実施することが可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図 1】実施形態にかかるタイヤ空気圧推定装置を示すブロック図である。

【図 2】車輪速センサの構成を概略的に示す説明図である。

【図 3】タイヤ空気圧の推定処理を示すフローチャートである。

【図 4】車輪の力学モデルを示す図である。

【図 5】(a)、(b) は、空気圧センサで設定されたしきい値を示す説明図である。

【図 6】オブザーバの選択処理を示すフローチャートである。

【図 7】オブザーバの選択処理を示すフローチャートである。

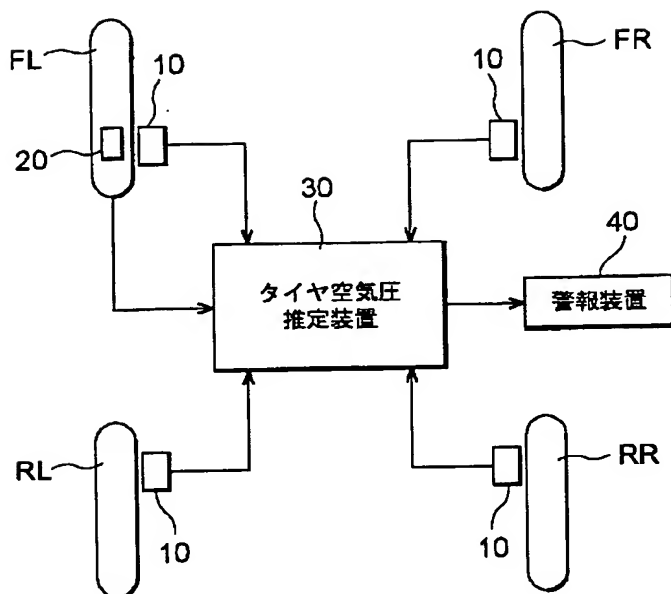
【図 8】図 7 のフローチャートにおける初期化ルーチンを示すフローチャートである。

【図 9】各バンドパスフィルタに入力される車輪速の周波数応答と、各フィルタの周波数特性及びフィルタ出力との関係を示す説明図である。

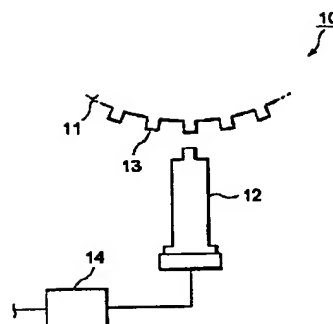
【符号の説明】

FL, FR, RL, RR…車輪、10…車輪速センサ、20…空気圧センサ、30…タイヤ空気圧推定装置、40…警報装置。

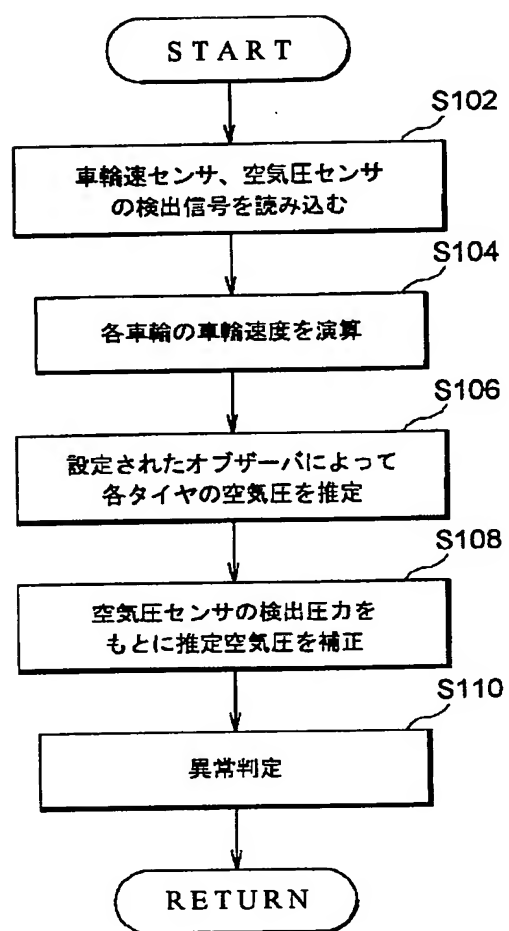
【図 1】



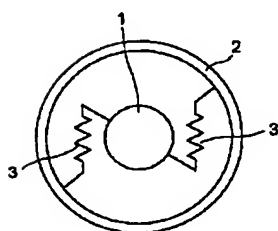
【図 2】



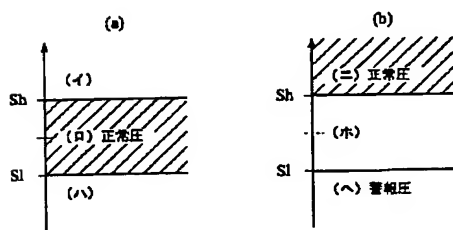
【図 3】



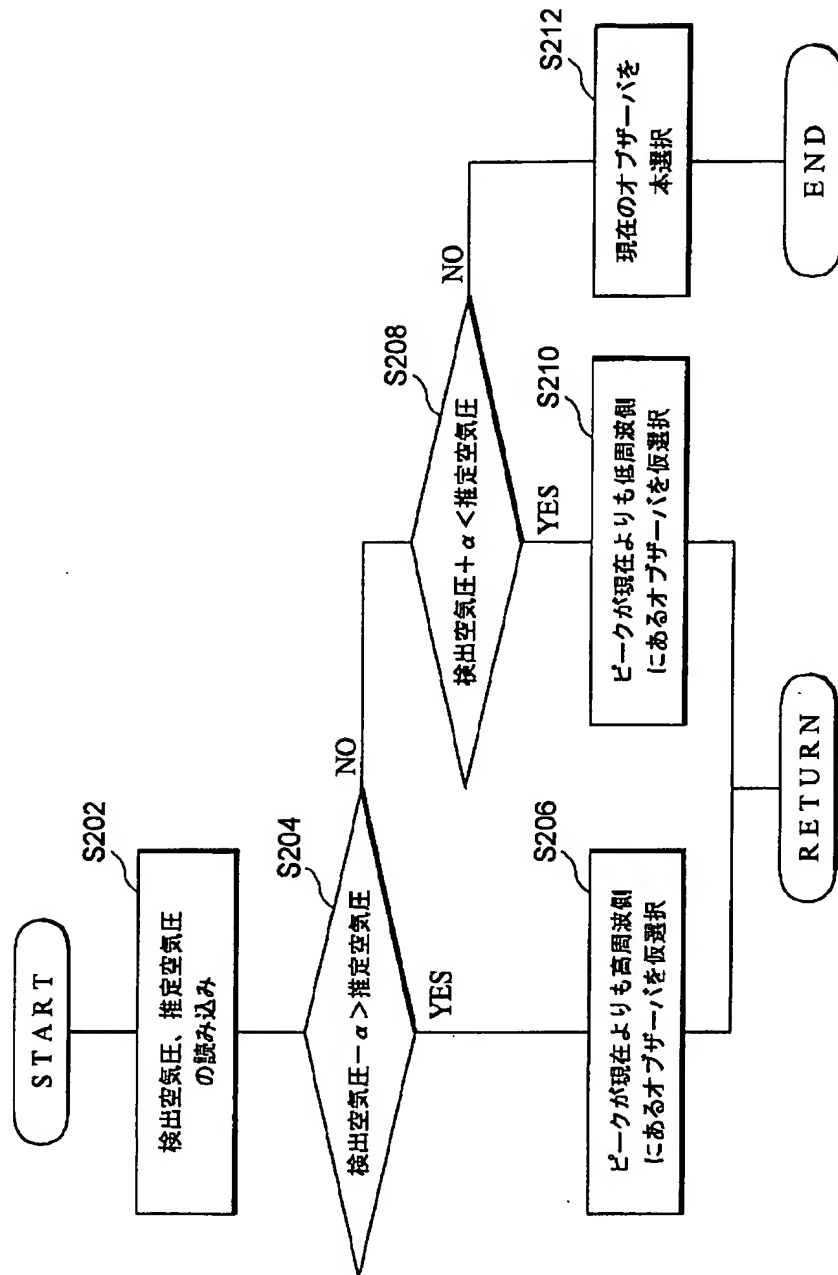
【図 4】



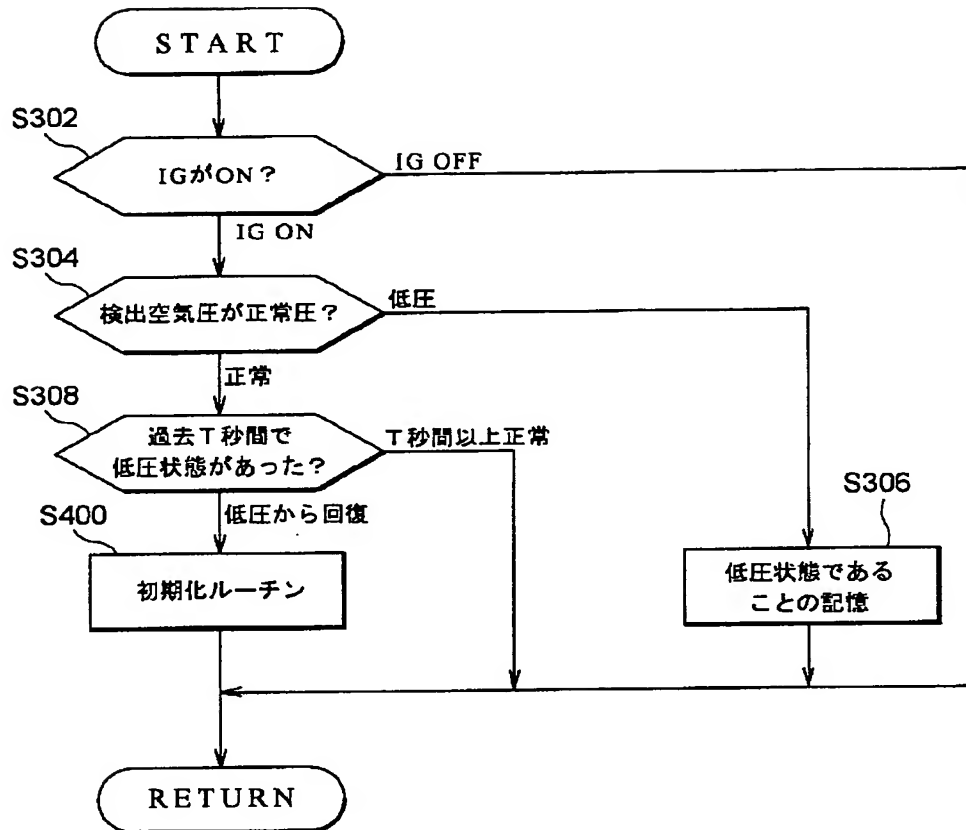
【図 5】



【図6】

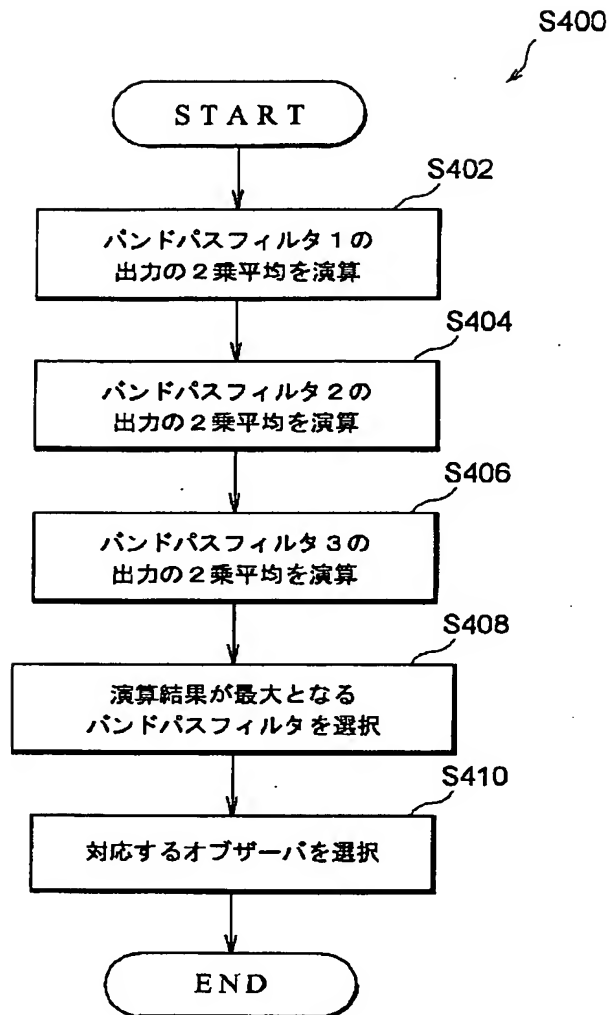


【図7】

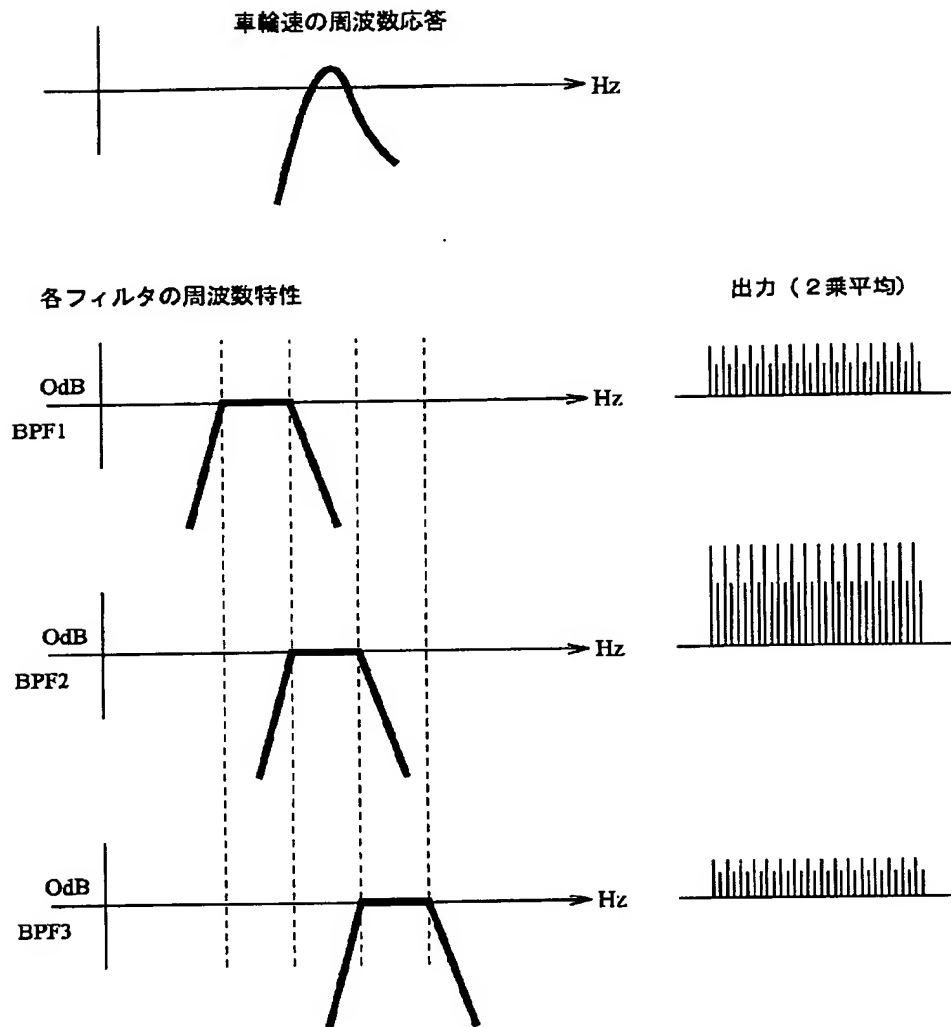




【図 8】



【図9】



## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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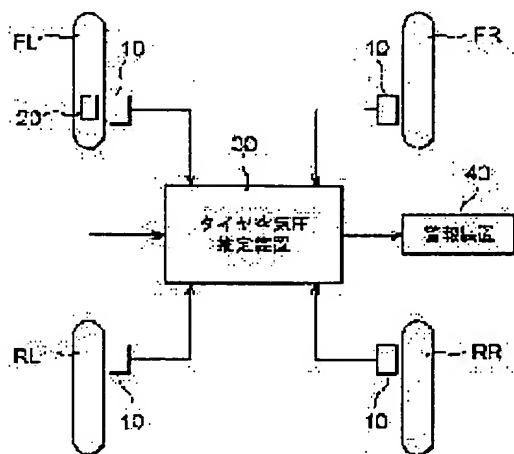
(72)Inventor : IWASAKI KATSUHIKO

## (54) ESTIMATION DEVICE FOR TIRE INFLATION PRESSURE

## (57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To continuously execute optimum estimation process even after replacing a tire by providing a plurality of observers for estimating inflation pressure of respective tires, detecting inflation pressure of any tire by an inflation pressure detecting means, and selecting an observer by a selecting means utilizing the detected result.

**SOLUTION:** Wheels FL-RR are provided with wheel speed sensors 10, the wheel FL is provided with an inflation pressure sensor 20, and those detected signals are given to a tire inflation pressure estimation device 30. This tire inflation pressure estimation device 30 is provided with a plurality of observers, and by any selected observer, the inflation pressure of the tires mounted on the respective wheels are estimated based on the respective detected signals. At selection process selecting the observer, it is judged based on read detected air pressure and estimated inflation pressure whether (the detected inflation pressure- $\alpha$ ) is higher than the estimated inflation pressure or not, and when the estimated pressure by the observer selected at present is estimated to be a small value, the observer of which peak value is on the higher frequency side than the present is temporarily selected.



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[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

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CLAIMS

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] In the tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which the wheel was equipped A rotation condition detection means to detect the rotation condition of each wheel and to output the detecting signal according to a rotation condition, By the observer chosen with a selection means to have had two or more observers for presuming the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped, to have responded to the tire with which it was equipped, to shift, and to choose that observer, and said selection means A tire-pressure presumption means to presume the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped based on said detecting signal, It was prepared in the tire with which one of specific wheels was equipped among said each wheel, and has a pneumatic pressure detection means to detect the pneumatic pressure of this tire. Said selection means Tire-pressure presumption equipment characterized by choosing said one of observers based on the presumed pneumatic pressure presumed with said tire-pressure presumption means, and the detection pneumatic pressure detected with said pneumatic pressure detection means.

[Claim 2] In the tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which the wheel was equipped A rotation condition detection means to detect the rotation condition of each wheel and to output the detecting signal according to a rotation condition, By the observer chosen with a selection means to have had two or more observers for presuming the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped, to have responded to the tire with which it was equipped, to shift, and to choose that observer, and said selection means A tire-pressure presumption means to presume the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped based on said detecting signal, It was prepared in the tire with which one of specific wheels was equipped among said each wheel, and has a pneumatic pressure detection means to detect the pneumatic pressure of this tire. Said selection means Tire-pressure presumption equipment characterized by choosing said one of observers based on the resonance frequency of the tire contained in said detecting signal when the detection pneumatic pressure of said pneumatic pressure detection means is predetermined within the limits.

[Claim 3] Said pneumatic pressure presumption means is tire-pressure presumption equipment [ equipped with an amendment means to amend the presumed pneumatic pressure of each tire ] according to claim 1 or 2 based on the detection pneumatic pressure of the tire with which said specific wheel was equipped, and the presumed pneumatic pressure of this tire.

[Claim 4] Said pneumatic pressure detection means is tire-pressure presumption equipment according to claim 1 or 2 which is the pressure sensor which has the predetermined threshold from which a sensor output changes before and behind that.

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**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped based on the rotation condition of a wheel.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes from the former the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped based on whenever [ wheel speed / of each wheel ] is proposed. For example, to JP,6-328919,A, the resonance frequency component of a tire is extracted from the detecting signal of a wheel speed sensor, and the tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes the pneumatic pressure condition of a tire from this resonance frequency is indicated. Moreover, in order to change according to the classification of a tire, the pneumatic pressure-resonance frequency property of a tire has formed the selection switch which selects the classification of the tire with which it equipped, and after it performs tire exchange, it sets up the classification of the tire with which the operator operated the selection switch and equipped. Thus, presumed processing of a tire-pressure condition according to tire classification is performed because an operator sets up tire classification in advance.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, also when tire classification is set up by actuation of a selection switch in this way, and the classification of the tire with which it equips differs with a front wheel and a rear wheel, for a certain reason, it is necessary to form separately the selection switch by the side of a front wheel, and the selection switch by the side of a rear wheel, respectively. For this reason, the number of switches not only increases, but setting actuation will become complicated. or [ moreover, / forgetting a setup by having to perform setting actuation, after performing tire exchange ] -- or when a mistaken setup was carried out, there was also a possibility that exact presumed processing of a tire-pressure condition could not be performed.

[0004] This invention is made that such a technical problem should be solved, and the purpose is in offering the tire-pressure presumption equipment which can perform optimal presumed processing, without needing actuation of an operator in any way, also when tire exchange is performed.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem] Then, the tire-pressure presumption equipment concerning claim 1 In the tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which the wheel was equipped A rotation condition detection means to detect the rotation condition of each wheel and to output the detecting signal according to a rotation condition. By the observer chosen with a selection means to have had two or more observers for presuming the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped, to have responded to the tire with which it was equipped, to shift, and to choose that observer, and the selection means A tire-pressure presumption means to presume the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped based on the detecting signal. It was prepared in the tire with which one of specific wheels was equipped among each wheel, and has a pneumatic pressure detection means to detect the pneumatic pressure of this tire. A selection means Based on the presumed pneumatic pressure presumed with the tire-pressure presumption means, and the detection pneumatic pressure detected with the pneumatic pressure detection means, it is characterized by choosing one of observers.

[0006] The optimal observer can be chosen with a selection means, without needing actuation of an operator, since an observer is chosen based on presumed pneumatic pressure and detection pneumatic pressure.

[0007] In the tire-pressure presumption equipment which presumes the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which the wheel was equipped with the tire-pressure presumption equipment concerning claim 2 A rotation condition detection means to detect the rotation condition of each wheel and to output the detecting signal according to a rotation condition. By the observer chosen with a selection means to have had two or more observers for presuming the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped, to have responded to the tire with which it was equipped, to shift, and to choose that observer, and said selection means A tire-pressure presumption means to presume the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheel was equipped based on the detecting signal. It was prepared in the tire with which one of specific wheels was equipped among each wheel, and has a pneumatic pressure detection means to detect the pneumatic pressure of this tire. A selection means When the detection pneumatic pressure of a pneumatic pressure detection means is predetermined within the limits, it is characterized by choosing one of observers based on the resonance frequency of the tire contained in a detecting signal.

[0008] The resonance frequency of each tire proper is contained in a detecting signal, and this resonance frequency changes with tire pressures to it. For this reason, a selection means judges that a tire pressure is normal pressure, when the detection pneumatic pressure of a pneumatic pressure detection means is predetermined within the limits, and it chooses the observer optimal based on the resonance frequency contained in the detecting signal in this case.

[0009] The pneumatic pressure presumption means of claims 1 or 2 is equipped with an amendment means to amend the presumed pneumatic pressure of each tire based on the detection pneumatic pressure of the tire with which the specific wheel was equipped, and the presumed pneumatic pressure of this tire, and the tire-pressure presumption equipment concerning claim 3 constitutes.

[0010] Since an amendment means amends the presumed pneumatic pressure of each tire based on the detection pneumatic pressure of the tire which carried out direct detection, presumption of pneumatic pressure with a high precision is attained.

[0011] The tire-pressure presumption equipment concerning claim 4 consists of pressure sensors which have the predetermined threshold from which a sensor output changes the pneumatic pressure detection means of claims 1 or 2 before and behind that.

[0012] Power-saving and simplification of a sensor can be achieved with constituting from a pressure sensor which has the predetermined threshold from which not a linear sensor but a sensor output changes a pneumatic pressure detection means.

[0013]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, with reference to an accompanying drawing, it explains about the operation gestalt of this invention.

[0014] The configuration of the tire-pressure presumption equipment applied to this operation gestalt at drawing 1 is shown roughly. The wheel speed sensor 10 as a rotation condition detection means to detect the rotation condition of each wheel, respectively is formed in the wheels floor line, FR, RL, and RR of front and rear, right and left with which each wheel is equipped.

[0015] As shown in drawing 2, the wheel speed sensor 10 is equipped with Rota 11 of the gearing configuration which consists of the magnetic substance, and the pick up coil 12, rotates Rota 11 with each wheels floor line, FR, RL, and RR, and forms the tooth part 13 of constant pitch in a perimeter. The pick up coil 12 generates the electrical potential difference which changes periodically according to passage of the tooth part 13 of Rota 11. And this electrical potential difference is operated orthopedically and outputted to a square wave by the waveform shaper 14.

[0016] The pneumatic sensor 20 as a pneumatic pressure detection means which carries out direct detection of the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which this wheel floor line was equipped to one wheel floor line is formed. This pneumatic sensor 20 is equipped with two thresholds from which a sensor output changes before and behind that. As shown in drawing 5 (a), between the threshold Sh and the threshold Sl, two thresholds Sh and Sl are set up so that the pneumatic pressure (normal pressure) of a normal tire may exist, and (\*\*), (\*\*), or three detection conditions (2-bit information) of (Ha) are outputted as a detection result. For example, if a detection result is (b), it turns out that the measured tire pressure is within the limits of predetermined [ it is considered that is normal pressure ].

[0017] In addition, as shown in drawing 5 (b), a setup of thresholds Sh and Sl can also be set up so that the central value of normal pressure and \*\*\*\*\* may exist between a threshold Sh and a threshold Sl. In this case, there are three detection conditions, (d), (e), and (\*\*), as a detection result, and if a detection result is (d), it turns out that the measured tire pressure is within the limits of predetermined [ it is considered that is normal pressure ].

[0018] The detecting signal of these wheel speed sensor 10 and a pneumatic sensor 20 is given to tire-pressure presumption equipment 30. Tire-pressure presumption equipment 30 is equipped with two or more observers which responded to tire classification, and presumes the pneumatic pressure of the tire which be chosen to mention later and with which shifted and each wheels floor line, FR, RL, and RR were equipped by that observer based on the detecting signal of the wheel speed sensor 10 and a pneumatic sensor 20. And when an air failure occurs into the tire with which one of wheels was equipped, the alarm processing which tells an operator about the air failure of a tire, such as operating an alarm 40 and making a warning lamp turn on etc., is made.

[0019] Next, actuation of tire-pressure presumption equipment 30 is roughly explained based on the flow chart of drawing 3.

[0020] First, in step 102 (a "step" is described as "S" below), the detecting signal of the wheel speed sensor 10 and a pneumatic sensor 20 is read, and whenever [ wheel speed / of each wheels floor line, FR, RL, and RR ] is calculated based on the detecting signal of the read wheel speed sensor 10 in S104 continuing.

[0021] In S106 continuing, the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheels floor line, FR, RL, and RR were equipped based on whenever [ wheel speed / which was calculated ] etc. by the observer beforehand set up according to the tire which is carrying out current wearing is presumed. In addition, selection processing of an observer is explained in full detail behind.

[0022] Here, two or more observers (disturbance observer) which it had are explained roughly. Each of each observers is constituted based on the model of the wheel shown in drawing 4, and if a wheel is ground belt flank 2 with the rim flank 1, they is dealt with as a linear system connected by the torsion spring 3 of a constant K. And if the pneumatic pressure of a tire changes, spring constant K of torsion spring 3 will change, and it will be reflected in this linear system as disturbance. Then, the pneumatic pressure of a tire is presumed by presuming this disturbance using the technique of a disturbance observer (JP,8-34215,A etc.). Thus, in S106, the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which each wheels floor line, FR, RL, and RR were equipped is presumed.

[0023] In S108 continuing, the presumed pneumatic pressure presumed for every tire is amended for Pfl, Pfr, Prl, and Prr S106 using the detection pneumatic pressure A by the pneumatic sensor 20. That is, since the wheel in which the pneumatic sensor 20 was attached is Wheel floor line, it makes a correction factor Kp  $Kp = A / Pfl$  based on the presumed pneumatic pressure Pfl of a tire and the detection pneumatic pressure A with which Wheel floor line was equipped. And presumed pneumatic pressure is amended by multiplying the presumed pneumatic pressure Pfl, Pfr, Prl, and Prr of each tire by this correction factor Kp. Thus, since presumed pneumatic pressure is amended based on the value which carried out direct detection by the pneumatic sensor 20, more exact presumed pneumatic pressure can be obtained.

[0024] In S110 continuing, it is judged for the presumed pneumatic pressure of each tire amended by S108 whether it is below the criterion value Ps. It is judged with the pneumatic pressure of all tires being normal when the presumed pneumatic pressure of all tires is larger than the criterion value Ps, and when the presumed pneumatic pressure of one of tires is below

the criterion value  $P_s$ , alarm processing of the purport that the tire pressure of the corresponding wheel is unusual is made by the alarm 40.

[0025] With tire-pressure presumption equipment 30, presumed processing and judgment processing are continued and carried out in this way, and the pneumatic pressure condition of the tire under transit is supervised.

[0026] Next, the selection processing which chooses the observer used by S106 mentioned above is explained based on the flow chart of drawing 6.

[0027] First, in S202, the presumed pneumatic pressure presumed to be the detection pneumatic pressure of a pneumatic sensor 20 by S106 is read. In S204 continuing, it is judged based on the detection pneumatic pressure and presumed pneumatic pressure which were read whether it is detection pneumatic pressure- $\alpha$ > presumption pneumatic pressure. In addition, "alpha" is a value which shows the precision width of face of an observer. S -- 204 -- decision -- affirming -- having had -- a case -- \*\*\*\* -- (S -- 204 -- "Yes" --) -- detection -- pneumatic pressure -  $\alpha$  -- > -- presumption -- pneumatic pressure -- It will be presumed by small value to which the presumed pneumatic pressure by the observer by which current selection is made crosses the range of the precision width of face alpha rather than the actually detected detection pneumatic pressure, and progresses to S206 in this case. Rather than current, peak value makes temporary selection of the observer in a high frequency side, and ends this routine.

[0028] On the other hand, when denied by decision of S204, it progresses to "No") and S208 by ("S204. In S208, it is judged based on the detection pneumatic pressure and presumed pneumatic pressure which were read whether it is detection pneumatic pressure + $\alpha$ < presumption pneumatic pressure. When affirmed by this decision of S208, by (S208 "Yes"), From detection pneumatic pressure + $\alpha$ < presumption pneumatic pressure, the presumed pneumatic pressure by the observer by which current selection is made It will be presumed by big value which crosses the range of the precision width of face alpha rather than the actually detected detection pneumatic pressure, it progresses to S210 in this case, temporary selection of the observer which has peak value in a low frequency side rather than current is made, and this routine is ended.

[0029] Thus, although the processing after S202 is again repeated after passing through S206 and S210, the presumed pneumatic pressure read by S202 in the following routine is the presumed pneumatic pressure by the observer by which temporary selection was made by the front routine, and the processing after S204 will be repeated based on the value of this new presumed pneumatic pressure.

[0030] And decision processing progresses, and when denied by decision of S208, it progresses to "No") and S212 by (S208. In the situation which progresses to S212, it is detection pneumatic pressure- $\alpha$ <= presumption pneumatic pressure <= detection pneumatic pressure + $\alpha$ , and the presumed pneumatic pressure by the observer by which current selection is made is contained within the limits of the precision width of face alpha to the actually detected detection pneumatic pressure. That is, it is the optimal observer according to the tire by which current wearing is carried out, and a current observer makes actual selection of the current observer, and sets up as an observer used for pneumatic pressure presumption processing of the tire which should be carried out by S106.

[0031] Presumed processing of a tire pressure is made in S106 by the observer chosen by doing in this way.

[0032] Moreover, selection processing of an observer can also be carried out as follows.

[0033] The oscillation frequency component of a tire is contained, if frequency analysis of the output distribution of a detecting signal is carried out, the resonance frequency of each tire proper will show peak value to the detecting signal of the wheel speed sensor 10, and this resonance frequency will change with tire pressures to it. Therefore, it asks for the resonance frequency in a normal tire-pressure condition beforehand for every tire classification, and if the resonance frequency of a tire is detected under a normal tire pressure, the optimal observer according to tire classification, i.e., tire classification, can be chosen. Moreover, two or more observers mentioned above are equipped with the band pass filter corresponding to each observer, and a band pass filter and the set of an observer are uniquely determined as them with the linear system of the disturbance observer method mentioned above. Therefore, in selection processing of an observer, a band pass filter and the set of an observer (disturbance observer) will be chosen according to the tire equipped.

[0034] Hereafter, selection processing of an observer is explained based on the flow chart of drawing 7.

[0035] First, if it is judged whether the ignition switch was turned on by S302 and an ignition switch is turned on, it will progress to S304, the detection result of a pneumatic sensor 20 will be read, and it will be judged for detection pneumatic pressure whether it is normal pressure. For example, when the threshold of a pneumatic sensor 20 is a setup shown by drawing 5 (b), the detection condition of a pneumatic sensor 20 is judged by whether it is (d). When it is judged that the detection condition of a pneumatic sensor 20 is not. (\*\*) in S304 (it is not normal pressure), it memorizes that the tire pressure detected by progressing to S306 is in a low voltage condition, and this routine is ended.

[0036] When it is judged that the detection condition of a pneumatic sensor 20 is (\*\*) in S304 (it is normal pressure), it progresses to S308, the decision result for the past T seconds is read, and it is judged whether the low voltage condition was in the detection pneumatic pressure of a pressure sensor 20 in the past T seconds. In the past T seconds, when there was no low voltage condition, this routine was ended.

[0037] Since the detection pneumatic pressure of the current pneumatic sensor 20 is normal pressure when it is judged by S308 that there was a low voltage condition in the past T seconds, it can be judged as what recovered the low voltage condition. That is, it is judged as that to which tire exchange etc. was performed, and shifts to the initialization routine of the observer in S400.

[0038] Initialization routine is shown in drawing 8. In this initialization routine, although a band pass filter and the set of an observer (disturbance observer) are chosen, here explains the case where tire-pressure presumption equipment 30 is equipped with band pass filters 1-3 and the observers 1-3 corresponding to this to an example.

[0039] First, the detecting signal of the wheel speed sensor 10 is given to band pass filters 1-3, and the output is investigated. In S402, the root mean square of the output of a band pass filter 1 is calculated, the root mean square of the output of a band pass filter 2 is calculated in S404, and the root mean square of the output of a band pass filter 3 is calculated in S406.

[0040] When band pass filters 1-3 are the frequency characteristics shown in drawing 9, supposing the frequency response of the wheel speed detected by the wheel speed sensor 10 is the distribution shown in the upper part of drawing 9, the root mean square of the output of a band pass filter including the peak value (resonance point) of frequency distribution of this wheel speed will become the largest. So, in S408, the root mean square of the filter output calculated by S402-S406 is compared, and the band pass filter with which the result of an operation serves as max is chosen. A band pass filter 2 is chosen in the example of drawing 9. And in S410 continuing, the observer corresponding to this band pass filter 2 is chosen. [0041] Thus, an observer can also be chosen and presumed processing of a tire pressure is made in S106 mentioned above by the observer chosen by doing in this way.

[0042] Among the operation gestalten explained above, with the flow chart of drawing 7, although the case where selection processing of an observer was started was illustrated based on the detection result of a pneumatic sensor 20 to the timing to which the pneumatic pressure condition returned to normal pressure, the detection pressure of a pneumatic sensor 20 can also start selection processing of an observer on condition that normal pressure to the timing by which the ignition switch was turned on, for example.

[0043] Moreover, although the sensor with two thresholds was illustrated as a pneumatic sensor 20, it has one threshold and the pressure sensor of the type which outputs two detection conditions can also be used. In this case, to precision (dispersion width of face)\*\*2Q of the normal pressure of a tire, and an observer method, threshold S is set up so that it may become normal pressure-Q<=S<= normal pressure.

[0044]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, while a pneumatic pressure detection means detects the pneumatic pressure of the tire with which one of specific wheels was equipped among each wheel according to the tire-pressure presumption equipment concerning each claim Using this detection result since an observer is chosen with a selection means Without needing actuation of an operator in any way, also when tire exchange is performed, the optimal observer according to tire classification can be chosen, and after tire exchange becomes possible [ continuing and carrying out optimal presumed processing ].

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\* NOTICES \*

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- 1.This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

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[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the block diagram showing the tire-pressure presumption equipment concerning an operation gestalt.

[Drawing 2] It is the explanatory view showing the configuration of a wheel speed sensor roughly.

[Drawing 3] It is the flow chart which shows presumed processing of a tire pressure.

[Drawing 4] It is drawing showing the dynamics model of a wheel.

[Drawing 5] (a) and (b) are the explanatory views showing the threshold set up by the pneumatic sensor.

[Drawing 6] It is the flow chart which shows selection processing of an observer.

[Drawing 7] It is the flow chart which shows selection processing of an observer.

[Drawing 8] It is the flow chart which shows the initialization routine in the flow chart of drawing 7.

[Drawing 9] It is the explanatory view showing the relation between the frequency response of the wheel speed inputted into each band pass filter, and the frequency characteristics of each filter and a filter output.

[Description of Notations]

floor line, FR, RL, RR [ — Tire-pressure presumption equipment 40 / — Alarm. ] — A wheel, 10 — A wheel speed sensor, 20 — A pneumatic sensor, 30

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